

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PCAT, PARM, UNGA, CH

SUBJECT: PRC VIEWS ON UN SSOD

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRC COUNSELLOR OF EMBASSY WU FAN-WU
RECENTLY REQUESTED MEETING WITH SENIOR DFA OFFICIAL TO
PRESENT CHINESE VIEWS ON DISARMAMENT AND CHINA'S DECISION
TO ATTEND THE SSOD. AN ACCOUNT OF THIS EXCHANGE FOLLOWS.
END SUMMARY.

2. WU SAID THAT IN CHINA'S VIEW DISARMAMENT HAD TO BE
SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE "TURBULENCE" IN THE WORLD
CREATED BY THE RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS. THE
SOVIET UNION WAS THE MORE AGGRESSIVE OF THE TWO AND WAS
SEEKING IMPERIALIST EXPANSION OVERSEAS. IT HAD A GREATER
CAPACITY TO DECIEIVE THAN THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE IT
OPERATED UNDER THE "BANNER OF SOCIALISM." CHINA'S VIEW
OF THE WORLD HAD ARISEN NOT OUT OF NATIONAL INTEREST OR
IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BUT FROM OBERSVANCE OF INTER-
NATIONAL AFFAIRS OVER THE YEARS. THE SOVIET UNION'S
MILITARY EXPENDITURE WAS INCREASING BY 4.2 PERCENT
ANNUALLY AND HAD NOW REACHED 13 PERCENT OF ITS GNP. ITS
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MILITARY FORCES NUMBERED FOUR MILLION AND ITS STRATEGIC
CAPABILITIES HAD INCREASED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE THE
CONCLUSION OF SALT I. ITS ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA AND
ETHIOPIA AND ITS USE OF CUBAN MERCENARIES TO FIGHT
AFRICANS AHAD BROUGHT "TURBULENCE" TO THAT CONTINENT.
THE INTERNATION SITUATION REMAINED TENSE AND THE
FACTORS FOR WAR WERE INCREASING.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND THE SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED COUNTRIES SHOULD CALL FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT. THEY SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, HOLD UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ABOUT EH SESSION. THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE AND THE MAIN TASK FOR THE SESSION SHOULD BE TO EXPOSE THE DISARMAMENT TRICKS PRACTICED BY THE SOVIET UNION. THE CHINESE PEOPLE DID NOT WANT A NEW WORLD WAR. THEY WANTED TO MODERNIZE THEIR COUNTRY BY THE YEAR 2000 IN A PEACEFUL INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT. NEVERTHELESS, PREPAREDNESS WOULD PREVENT DISASTER. THE WORLD NEEDED TO BE REMINDED OF THE HISTORIC LESSONS OF WORLD WAR II WHEN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY VIGILANT AND HAD SUFFERED. CHINA WANTED TO PROMOTE UNITY BETWEEN THE THIRD AND SECOND WORLDS AGAINST THE HEGEMONY OF THE SUPERPOWERS.

4. DFA OFFICIAL THANKED WU FOR HIS EXPOSITION AND SAID AUSTRALIA WELCOMED CHINA'S DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPECIAL SESSION. AUSTRALIA ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO THE SPECIAL SESSION AND BELIEVED THAT IT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO MORE INTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT. THE GOA SHARED MANY OF THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY WU ABOUT THE LEVEL OF SOVIET ARMS

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EXPENDITURE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR MILITARY STABILITY. THE GOA ALSO AGREED THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA GAVE SERIOUS GROUNDS FOR CONCERN. DIFFICULT AS IT MAY BE, THE GOA HOPED NEVERTHELESS THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION COULD MAKE PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF ARMS CONTROL.

5. AS THE GOA SAW IT, PROGRESS BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS AND THE CONCLUSION OF A CTB AGREEMENT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER INTERNATIONAL STABILITY. IT WOULD ALSO HELP TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF A STRENGTHENED NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME. IN THE FACE OF A CTB, IT WOULD BE A BRAVE OR DESPERATE COUNTRY WHICH WOULD CONDUCT A NEW TEST. SAFEGUARDS AND NUCLEAR INDUSTRY CONTROLS, WHICH CHECK THE DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO WEAPONS PURPOSES, WAS ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH AUSTRALIA, AS A URANIUM EXPORTER, WAS DEEPLY COMMITTED. IN ADDITION TO PARTICIPATING IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION, AUSTRALIA WAS ALSO PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE). DFA OFFICIAL ASKED WHETHER CHINA WAS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN INFCE OR THE IAEA, EITHER FULLY OR AS AN OBSERVER.

6. WU REPLIED THAT CHINA SUPPORTED AN END TO ALL NUCLEAR TESTING AND THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE FIRST STEP, HOWEVER, WAS FOR ALL NUCLEAR WEAPON COUNTRIES TO COMMIT THEMSELVES NOT TO BE THE FIRST TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND NOT TO USE THEM AGAINST NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES. CHINA WAS SO FAR THE ONLY NUCLEAR WEAPON STATE WHICH HAD MADE THESE COMMITMENTS. ON THE PARTIAL TEST BAN TREATY, CHINESE AND FRENCH VIEWS DIFFERED FROM THOSE OF MANY COUNTRIES, BUT CHINA AND FRANCE HAD RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO RATIFY PROTOCOL II OF THE TREATY OF TLAHELCO. THE SOVIET UNION HAD NOT DONE SO. WU SAID THAT ONE OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF CHINESE PARTICIPATION
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IN THE IAEA WAS THE AGENCY'S CONTINUING RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN. DFA OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WAS ONLY IN THE FORM OF A SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO VERIFY THAT NO NUCLEAR MATERIAL IN TAIWAN WAS BEING DIVERTED TO WEAPONS PURPOSES.

7. DFA OFFICIAL ALSO REFERRED TO THE REVIEW OF DIS-ARMAMENT NEGOTIATING MACHINERY AT THE SPECIAL SESSION AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE CCD. FRENCH PARTICIPATION WAS NOW LIKELY. AUSTRALIA WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP. HE BELIEVD THAT CHINESE PARTICIPATION WOULD BE WELCOMED. WU DID NOT RESPOND TO THIS POINT.
ALSTON

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